

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 June 2005 (09.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/052374 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F04C 27/00, F04B 37/14**

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/004725

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
9 November 2004 (09.11.2004)

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
0326613.7 14 November 2003 (14.11.2003) GB

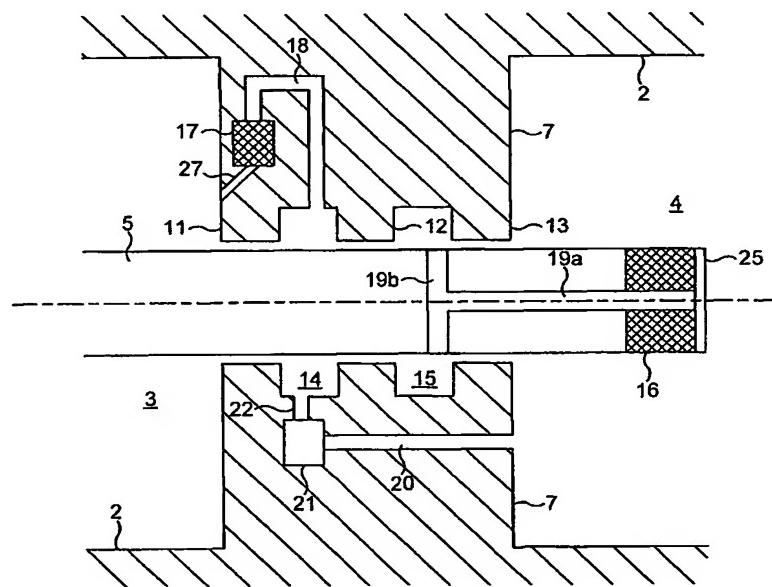
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VACUUM PUMP



WO 2005/052374 A1

(57) Abstract: A vacuum pump is provided comprising a pumping mechanism, a drive shaft for driving the pumping mechanism and a gear box connected to the drive shaft for rotating the drive shaft. Pressure control means are provided to define a path to allow fluid to flow from the pumping mechanism to the gear box in order to reduce the pressure difference therebetween. A reservoir is located within this path for collecting oil passing along the drive shaft from the gear box towards the pumping mechanism. In use, this enables pressurised fluid flowing from the pumping mechanism towards the gear box to urge oil which has collected in the reservoir, towards the gear box.



Published:

— *with international search report*

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